

# Tale Feathers

Nov 2004

Volume 71  
Number 8

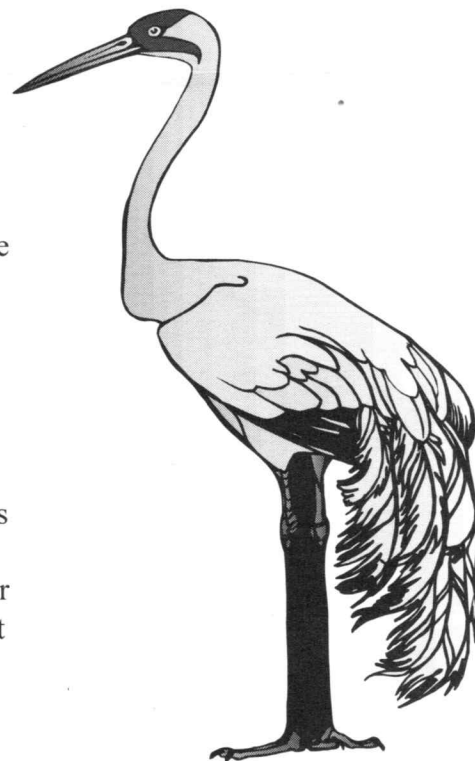
## Crane River: A Movie

For many who have witnessed it, the sandhill crane migration along the continent's central flyway is the greatest wildlife spectacle in this hemisphere. For a very short time in spring each year, as many as a half million cranes stopover along the Platte River in central Nebraska, refueling for their continued journey north to their breeding grounds. Crane River captures the beauty and inspiration of this natural wonder and weaves into the story the real stresses and difficulties our modern society is placing in the birds' path. Whether or not you've been to the migration festival in Kearney, Nebraska, you will surely enjoy the beautiful images and informative narration of this film.

Join us on **Tuesday, November 16th at 7:30 p.m. at the Powder Valley Nature Center** to enjoy this documentary produced by the National Audubon Society. The film is 58 minutes long and will be preceded by a few Society announcements. Please bring a friend as the show is free to all and *popcorn* and soda will be served.

From the intersection of Interstates 44 & 270, take Watson Rd. to Geyer Rd. Turn north on Geyer for 200 yds. to Cragwold Rd. Go west on Cragwold for 1 mi. to nature center entrance on right. Follow drive to parking lot. Enter building through left entrance and proceed to the auditorium.

Questions, call Mitch Leachman at 314-739-5112.



## Inside

Birding trips

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Reports on Bird  
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**St. Louis Audubon Society**

## New Members

Mary L. Adams  
Collette Ancel  
Lorraine E. Anderson  
Leda Clemente  
Verla Debeer  
Beulah Edwards  
Mary A. Ellis  
Tommye Fleming  
Michael Halloran  
George Holske  
Savitri Jain  
Patricia Janovsky  
Janet Johnson  
Geraldine G. Klein  
Ruth LaPlante  
Harold Malstrom  
Jul Ann McGrory  
Clara Meyer  
Mrs. Vernon Montgomery  
Karen S. Nieman  
Nancy O'Brien  
Rose Overley  
Margaret A. Phillips  
Jennifer Reif  
Don Rogers  
Ann J. Ruzicka  
Edward Sanders  
Donald Spruell  
Adrian Stubblefield  
Sutton  
Timothy N. Taylor  
Jeanne Treu  
Claudia Umphenour  
Linda Wilson  
Morris Fishbein

## Birding Scholarship Trip Opportunity

The Tim Schantz Memorial Foundation will send a college age scholarship recipient to the Kachemak Bay Shorebird Festival in Homer, Alaska May 5-8, 2005 to help in the student's study of migrating shorebirds. The Kachemak Bay Area, a magnificent setting, is renowned for the diversity and numbers of shorebird species that pass through each spring.

Tim Schantz, recognized for his dedication and expertise in field bird identification, died suddenly of a heart ailment May 27, 2001 at the age of 36 while guiding a birding tour to Gambell, Alaska. The Tim Schantz Foundation has been established to insure that Tim's passion for birds lives on in other young aspiring students.

The scholarship trip will include the following:

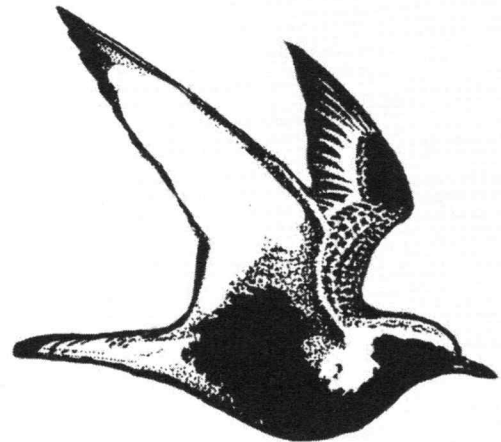
- " Roundtrip airfare to Anchorage, Alaska
- " Transportation from Anchorage to Homer, Alaska
- " Four nights lodging for the festival
- " A copy of the new ABA Alaska finding guide

Part of this experience will involve being on the program for the shorebird festival and doing an original ornithological presentation as well as serving as an interpretive guide for the public. For more information on the Kachemak Bay Shorebird Festival go to [homer-alaska.org/shorebird](http://homer-alaska.org/shorebird).

To request a scholarship application send an email to [schantzbird@aol.com](mailto:schantzbird@aol.com)

or write to:

Tim Schantz Memorial Foundation  
6608 Medinah Drive  
Ft. Worth, TX 76132



# President's Report

Dave Tylka

As the temperatures turn cool and we begin our sedentary metamorphosis, rebel! Don't spin that chrysalis. Get out that yellow newsletter insert that you have magnetized to your refrigerator and see the potpourri of activities that are available to the members and friends of the St. Louis Audubon Society. Misplaced your insert? Go to our website at [www.stlouisaudubon.org/](http://www.stlouisaudubon.org/) and click on "birding" or "events." Although the information was not available in August when we printed our newsletter insert, Audubon Christmas Bird Counts are an enjoyable way of collecting bird census data. For a list of these Christmas Bird Counts and directions to find them, go to the Audubon Society of Missouri website at [www.Mobirds.org/](http://www.Mobirds.org/) and click on Christmas Bird Counts. The annual Christmas Holiday Party in partnership with the Webster Groves Nature Study Society on December 5th is a great way to rekindle the spirit with other people who share an appreciation of natural resources. In January, St. Louis Audubon volunteers will help with the interpretive event called Eagle Days at the old Chain of Rocks Bridge.

Are you a teacher or a volunteer naturalist? Even if you are not, most of us have contact with teachers, youth leaders, and other educational volunteers. Are you aware of the week-long Audubon Camps that are offered to educators during the summer? These are wonderful ways to immerse yourself into natural resource education. Our chapter offers scholarships for educators to defray the costs and to introduce people to the enthusiastic teachers who operate these camps across the country. An article about Audubon Camps is highlighted in this newsletter.

Speaking of education, new developments have occurred in our Chapter's plan to build a wetland nature center at Little Creve Coeur Marsh in Maryland Heights. Missouri Audubon, in partnership with National Audubon and several state agencies, has recently received a favorable feasibility study to build a sizable land-based nature center featuring river ecology to go along with its docking and operation of the Audubon Ark. The Audubon Ark and nature center are proposed to be located near the old Chain of Rocks Bridge. An article on the Audubon

Ark was published in the metro section of the St. Louis Post-Dispatch on Sunday, October 10. Our St. Louis Audubon Board of Directors and Education Committee are going to reassess the need for another wetland nature center in addition to the Missouri Audubon center, and other river-associated visitor centers at Riverlands, Columbia Bottoms, and Lock and Dam #26 in Alton, Illinois.

One last note focuses upon the relationships between Chapters and National Audubon. After two years of study, the National Audubon Chapter Ad Hoc Committee and Advisory Group have published a preliminary report and draft recommendations on how to strengthen the network between National Audubon and the 500 Audubon Chapters. This information is available at the website [www.audubon.org/local/cso/adhoccom/](http://www.audubon.org/local/cso/adhoccom/). Our chapter will review these recommendations and offer comment to this Committee by the end of November. Comments and suggestions from all Audubon members are most welcomed. You are invited to email your comments directly to Chair Bill McQuilkin at [wwmcq@comcast.net](mailto:wwmcq@comcast.net) and/or to me at [dtylka@mind-spring.com](mailto:dtylka@mind-spring.com).

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THE SLAS HOLIDAY PARTY!

It seems hard to believe, but the holidays are just around the corner. Once again this year, the St. Louis Audubon Society will be joining the Webster Groves Nature Study Society to celebrate the holidays at The Green Center in University City. This special event will be held on Sunday, **December 5 from 1 to 4 p.m.**

More details will be provided about the festivities in the December issue of *Tale Feathers*, so watch for further information and save the date!



# SLAS Birding Trips for November, December & January

*John Solodar*

**November 20, Saturday** - Busch & Weldon Springs CA. This trip starts at 8:00 am at the Hampton Lake parking area at Busch Conservation Area. Lots of waterfowl should be in by now as well as migrant land birds from the north that winter here. This is the time of year when unusual birds often turn up so anything is possible. Trip leaders are Mike Thelen and Pat Lueders.

**December 11, Saturday** - Riverlands. This trip starts at 9:00 AM at the Teal Pond Parking lot. Trip leaders are Dave Rogles (he knows REDA better than anyone) and Pat Lueders. Bring lots of warm clothes as the winter wind can be quite stressful at REDA. We'll be looking for odd gulls, lots of ducks and maybe some surprises such as scoters.

**January 8, Saturday** - Riverlands. We return to our winter hotspot for a 9:00 AM trip led by Paul Bauer and Mike Thelen. This is the time of year when the really rare gulls often show up. With luck we also have some longspurs and Snow Buntings around. Again, dress warmly against the winter winds at REDA. Some of those hunter's charcoal/iron filings hand warmers will also serve you well.

**January 22, Saturday** - Forest 44/Lone Elk Park. This has proven to be an interesting trip the last few years with Rusty Blackbirds, among other things, in the area. The trip will start at 8:00 AM at Forest 44 and will be led by Mike Thelen and Josh Uffman.

## Upcoming WGNSS walks on Sundays:

**December 5, Sunday** - Riverlands. Meet trip leader Dave Rogles at 8:00 AM at the Teal Pond parking lot.

### How to get there

**Busch Conservation Area** Take U.S.40/I-64 west into St. Charles County. Take Hwy 94 south from U.S. 40 about 1 mile to Hwy D. Turn right and go about 1.5 miles to the entrance on the right. Turn left at the "T" to Hampton Lake and meet in the parking lot. For trips using a H.Q. starting point turn right at the "T".

**Forest 44** - Take I-44 west from I-270 and go 3.5 miles to Hwy 141. Travel south on Hwy 141 to Meramec Station Road (first stoplight) and turn right. Follow Meramec Station Road to Hillsboro Road. Turn left on Hillsboro Rd for 0.4 mile to parking area on the right.

**Riverlands** - Take Hwy 367 north from I-270. The designation changes to Hwy 67 just beyond the 4th traffic light, but continue. Turn right on last road just before the Clark Bridge at the Mississippi River. (Fisca gas station at this turn.) Turn right on the first road and park in the Teal Pond parking lot.

## Audubon Volunteers Needed

Riverlands Environmental Demonstration Area, near Alton, IL, but actually located on the Missouri side of the Mississippi, is a hot bed for Bald Eagles during the winter months. Many visitors go there on weekends to see the eagles. The Corps of Engineers would like to have their River Project Office, located on the Missouri side, open on weekends to answer questions from eagle watchers and to point these people to the best places for observation. Accordingly, the Corps is looking for interested volunteers who could be have the office open for some hours on weekends during January and February. The proposed hours are from 10 AM - 4 PM on both Saturdays and Sundays, but volunteers need not work all 6 hrs of one shift nor do they need to be present for both days on any weekend. In fact, they will accept offers to volunteer for only one day even for just a few hours if that is all that some people can offer. In addition to answering questions it is anticipated that the volunteers will assist visitors in using the telescopes that will be available in the office meeting room. Training can be supplied for any volunteer who does not know how to use a telescope. The contact person for this work is Carol Ryan. Her office is in the museum on the Illinois side where she can be reached at 618-462-6979.

# Clarence Cannon Highlights

Mike Thelen

The scary forecast from Thursday was turned upside down today as the weather changed from gloomy to gorgeous for the ST. LOUIS AUDUBON SOCIETY field trip to:

Clarence Cannon NWR  
Prairie Slough CA  
B. K. Leach Memorial WA  
Winfield Dam

Thanks to the collective efforts of sharp-eyed participants, and to Joe Eades' tip on the Yellow-throated Warblers (seen at Winfield Dam), the group enjoyed good birding having a TOTAL 81 SPECIES for the day. Fall colors were spectacular at Winfield Dam as the late afternoon light hit the Illinois bluffs. Please forgive that the bird highlights are listed in old taxonomic order.

## Highlights by group include:

- 8 species of duck. The largest single flock, est 500 and mostly Mallard, was seen at Clarence Cannon.
- 6 species of hawk. There were also interesting-looking raptors seen at great distance, including one large falcon-like bird zooming down the Mississippi and one large accipiter-like bird. They were all just too far away to definitively ID.
- All the woodpeckers, except pileated
- About 1,500 swallows
- Both kinglets
- 3 species of vireo
- 7 species of warbler
- 8 species of sparrow

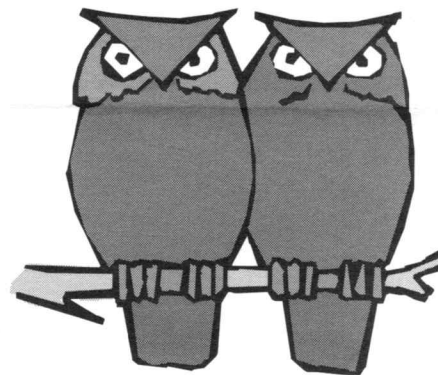
## Highlights by species include:

Horned Grebe, 3  
American White Pelican, ~ 1,100  
Canada Goose, a small flock of large plus 7 small  
American Black Duck, 1  
American Wigeon, 1  
Bald Eagle, 2 (1 adult + 1 apparent juv)  
Northern Harrier, 1  
Sharp-shinned Hawk, 1  
Cooper's Hawk, 3  
Red-tailed Hawk, 2 including 1 apparent western  
American Kestrel, 1  
Herring Gull, 1 (1w)

Barred Owl, 2  
Belted Kingfisher, 2  
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 5  
Golden-crowned Kinglet, 3  
Blue-headed Vireo, 1  
Philadelphia Vireo, 1  
Red-eyed Vireo, 1  
Orange-crowned Warbler, 1  
Yellow-throated Warbler, 2  
Palm Warbler, ~ 15  
Common Yellowthroat, 1  
Chipping Sparrow, ~ 5  
Vesper Sparrow, 1  
Lincoln's Sparrow, 2  
White-throated Sparrow, 1  
White-crowned Sparrow, 2

## Creatures of the Night

Come and learn about the different creatures of the night. These include insects, birds, reptiles, bats and wolves. St. Louis Audubon will be joining other organizations with displays at Babler State Park. Our display will include our mounted owls and our bat.



This will be a day of fun and learning sponsored by the Dept. of Natural Resources at Babler State Park. They have advised there will be games and prizes and have suggested the kids wear their costumes.

This will be held at the Visitor Center from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, October 30, 2004.

Sharon Nickl  
V.P. of Education

## September 25th SLAS Pelagic Trip to Carlyle Lake

*Josh Uffman*

On September 25th the St. Louis Audubon Society joined the Illinois Ornithological Society for what was supposed to be a whole day of birding in and around Carlyle Lake, IL. What a great day to get out and bird with new and old friends!! The total species count for the day was 107, here is a list of the highlights:

**IL:** Hazlet SP-Cherokee Trail:

15 Species of warblers including: (1) Northern Waterthrush, (1)

Golden-winged Warbler, (1) Wilson's Warbler, (1) Bay-breasted Warbler and

(1-2) Blackburnian Warblers

1-Philadelphia Vireo

1-juvenile Black Billed Cuckoo

**IL:** Pontoon Boat Ride on Carlyle Lake:

1-Parasitic Jaeger, light phased juvenile.

3-Eared Grebe, all in non-breeding plumage

3-Red-necked Phalarope, all in non-breeding plumage

~30-35 Forster's Terns sitting on the water with a couple of Common Terns mixed in.

1-Franklins Gull

Neither the Long Tailed Jaegers nor the Sabin! es Gulls, that had been observed just the day before, were observed by the St. Louis group. However, little did we know that a first state record was waiting to be observed back on the Missouri side of the river.

After lunch we had originally planned to head to Parking Lot #3. However, after hearing of a Black Skimmer being seen on the Lincoln Shields side REDA it was an easy decision for all who remained on the field trip to head back to MO.

**MO:** REDA-Lincoln Shields:

1-BLACK SKIMMER. What a treat, a first state record!!

**MO:** REDA-Heron Pond

2-American Avocets

**MO:** REDA-Teal Pond

2-Black Tern

Truly a remarkable day to be birding around the St. Louis area!!

## How we "put our money where our-mouth is":SLAS Awards and Scholarships

The St. Louis Audubon Society has been granting a variety of awards and scholarships over the past 15 to 20 years with the goal of encouraging and acknowledging those individuals who share our goals of fostering an awareness and understanding of wildlife and habitat conservation. We would like for all of our members to be aware of these awards so that you can help us to identify those people who might be eligible. We welcome proposals from any SLAS member for the following awards and scholarships:

**Robert J Terry Award:** (one each year since 1994)

An award to honor a lifetime achievement in bringing about conservation of our natural resources.

**Conservationist of the Year** (one each year since 1991) An award to honor a local individual who has made out-of-the-ordinary achievement in helping to further environmental issues and awareness.

**Legislator of the Year:** (four since 1999) An award given to a locally-elected official who actively supports our goals of wildlife and habitat conservation.

**High School Young Environmentalist:** \$250 (5 since 1999) This award was created to encourage an exemplary high school student who plans further study in ecology, biology or related fields. The money is meant to help defray college costs and to reward young people who share Audubon Society goals.

**Science Fair Young Environmentalist:** \$50 + a plaque (2 each year since 1989) An award created to encourage Science Fair projects which relate to our goals of wildlife and habitat conservation. (one award to elementary and one to secondary)

**Science Teacher Scholarships:** These teacher scholarships allow area science/environmental ed. teachers to attend Audubon Ecology Camps located in Maine, Minnesota, and Wisconsin. The scholarships cover the six or seven-day session fee. Science teachers and youth leaders who can use this experience to enhance their teaching are encouraged to apply. (33 granted since 1988). For more information about these scholarships please see the St. Louis Audubon Society website: [www.stlouisaudubon.org](http://www.stlouisaudubon.org).

**Graduate Student Research Award:** This scholarship is offered to a student enrolled in a graduate program at a university in the St. Louis area. The financial aid of \$2000 is to support research on tropical or temperate bird populations, bird ecology, bird migration or conservation of birds and their habitat. (3 granted since 2002)

## Sixth Annual Bush Honeysuckle Removal November 14

*Help us with bird habitat restoration  
Mark your calendars!*

Thanks to the help of many volunteers over the past five years, most of the bush honeysuckle has been removed from **Kennedy Woods in Forest Park**. We are now able to move to a new phase of honeysuckle control. This new phase has two parts: removing new honeysuckles as they sprout, and removing large bushes from areas near the woods.

This year we will remove honeysuckle from a heavily infested area on the other side of the Zoo, near the Jewel Box. This not only will restore another woodland area in Forest Park, but also will keep honeysuckle from being reintroduced into Kennedy Woods, which has recently been designated as an Important Bird Area in Missouri.

**Date: Sunday, Nov. 14 (rain date: Nov. 21)**

**Time: Two shifts - 10:00 a.m. to noon and noon to 2:00 p.m.**

**Place: NEW! Picnic area 2 shelter, off of Carr Drive.**

From I-40 exit at Hampton (North), then turn right on Wells Drive. Follow the curve to the left, and take the left fork, which is Carr. The shelter is up the hill on the left side. See web site for a map.

**Bring:** Cutting tools (loppers, small saw), gloves. We will provide snacks and water.

If you wish to volunteer, simply send an e-mail to [honey-suckle@treeswallow.com](mailto:honey-suckle@treeswallow.com) and let us know:

- \* your name
- \* which shift you prefer, 1st or 2nd
- \* how many people you'll be bringing

You can also sign up and get additional information at our web site: <http://treeswallow.com/honeysuckle>

Thanks, and we hope to see you there!

The Kennedy Woods Advisory Group  
Contacts:

Ken Cohen 314-725-1147 [kalanc@hotmail.com](mailto:kalanc@hotmail.com)  
Jerry Farm 314-644-4302 [honey-suckle@treeswallow.com](mailto:honey-suckle@treeswallow.com)  
Sue Gustafson 314-968-8128 [smgustafson@juno.com](mailto:smgustafson@juno.com)  
Randy Korotev 314-993-0055 [rlk@levee.wustl.edu](mailto:rlk@levee.wustl.edu)

## Tale Feathers

*Tale Feathers* is published monthly by the St. Louis Audubon Society. Messenger Printing prints 2,500 copies of each newsletter on recycled paper using soy ink. Anne Bolte edits the newsletter.

### St. Louis Audubon Society 2004 - 2005

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Josh Iffman	314-524-7637
Jim Wilson	314-534-9975

*Eileen Buchanan  
CITY AUDUBON - ST. LOUIS  
(314) 382-0085*

#### Attention!

The deadline for the Dec./Jan. issue is **November 10**. Send inquiries to Anne by

E-mail [ambolte@swbell.net](mailto:ambolte@swbell.net)  
phone 314.832.0938  
post 6939 Sharp  
St. Louis, MO 63116



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## Join the St. Louis Audubon Society and the National Audubon Society

As a joint member with National Audubon, you will receive National Audubon's quarterly magazine (Audubon) as well as St. Louis Audubon Society's Newsletter (Tale Feathers). Now you also have the opportunity to join only the St. Louis Audubon Society, receive Tale Feathers, and participate in the educational and conservation activities of St. Louis Audubon. There is no distinction between individual and family membership. Dues cover all members at the same address. For information, call (314) 822-6595.

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### St. Louis Audubon Society / National Audubon Society -- Membership Application

All applicants please check: ☐ New, or ☐ Renewal

Use this form to join St. Louis Audubon / National Audubon

For joint membership in St. Louis Audubon Society and National Audubon Society, Make checks payable to **National Audubon Society** and mail to St. Louis Audubon Society, P. O. Box 220227, Kirkwood, MO 63122.

☐ Introductory Membership / \$20 ☐ Special Two-Year Introductory Membership / \$30

☐ Senior Citizen / \$15 (New and renewal) ☐ Student / \$15 (New and renewal)

☐ Renewal / \$35 (We recommend that you use the forms supplied by National Audubon)

Membership in only the St. Louis Audubon Society. Write checks payable to **SLAS**. Mail to St. Louis Audubon Society, P. O. Box 220227, Kirkwood, MO 63122.

☐ Local Chapter Membership only (St. Louis Audubon Society), Introductory and renewal. / \$15

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_ NO1 7XCH